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Author's Note Part 1

Hello Marimo Ragawa here. Baby and Me has reached ten volumes!

Some people have commented sarcastically that this series has turned into Co-Stars and Me. But what's wrong with that? I can't help it if the supporting cast is popular. "Do more with Fujii!" "I want more of Director Mukai!" "I love the Kimura family!" Or do you just want to read about Takuya and Minoru chapter after chapter? Readers would think I was in a rut if I did that. And no one would buy my manga then! It was rude of that person to write me and say "Get your act together!" So this is my question for this year. What's wrong with Co-Stars and Me? Absolutely nothing. The End.

BUT IT SEEMS THAT MY FEELINGS ARE UNREQUITED!
I-I JUST THOUGHT THAT MAYBE...BIGGER SUNNY-DAY DOLLS WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE...
MR. MUKAI!! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

*Handmade dolls that are supposed to bring good weather

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...
HA HA HA.
HE LOOKS LIKE ONE OF MR. MUKAI'S SUNNY-DAY DOLLS
SO BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME.
IT'S REALLY RAINING OUT THERE...
SEE, MINORU? SHE SAID IT'S CUTE.
YEAH ...
HUH?
UM. HOW OLD IS MR. MUKAI?

HUH, I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN HIS EYES! THE MAN'S A MYSTERY
I WONDER IF HE'D LOOK YOUNGER WITHOUT HIS SUNGLASSES
OH, MAYBE THE STAFF LISTING WILL TELL US
WELL, HE MIGHT LOOK YOUNGER IF HE SHAVED
DOESN'T HE LOOK ABOUT 40?
LET'S SEE I DON'T REALLY KNOW!

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NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM BUT THE DIRECTOR IS CRAZY ABOUT LITTLE KIDS.
WHAT, ICHIKA?
YOU SAW THEM?
ICHIKA
WHEN DID SHE GET HERE?
MINORU, YOU MUST NEVER GO NEAR ANYONE WITH EYES LIKE THIS
OGAY
SHE'S NUTS
WHEN HE LOOKS AT CHILDREN, I BET HIS EYES ARE LIKE THIS.
MR. MUKAI
STARE...
WHY ARE THE TEACHERS LOOKING AT ME SO STRANGELY?
I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO SEE THEM.
BUT I HATE MY EYES
COULD YOU TAKE THEM OFF FOR A SECOND?
WHY ARE YOU WEARING SUNGLASSES INDOORS?
MY SUNGLASSES?
JING
THAT JUST MAKES US WANT TO SEE THEM MORE!!
JING
WHO, ME?
HOW OLD DO I LOOK?
SAY, MR. MUKAI, HOW OLD ARE YOU, ANYWAY?
HMM
I'LL BE GOING HOME NOW. PERHAPS ALL OF YOU SHOULD DO THE SAME.
I THINK I'LL JUST LEAVE IT TO YOUR IMAGINATIONS.
A YOUNG LOOKING 54!!
FORTY-ONE!!
I DON'T KNOW EARLY THIRTIES MAYBE?

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HE STARTLED ME.
P-PLEASE DON'T BOTHER ME.
HA HA HA
HEY !!
GULP
..FOR HIS SUNGLASSES!!
NOW..
TEACHER, MINORU'S PLAYING WITH US. DON'T TAKE HIM AWAY NOW.
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU, MINORU.
YEAH
Uh
HUH?
OH, MINORU...
...EYES ?
WOULDN'T YOU AND MINORU LIKE TO SEE...
..MR. MUKAI'S..
THE DIRECTOR LIKES YOU A LOT, TOO, DOESN'T HE?
ICHIKA..
YES?
CLEANING WINDOWS ON A RAINY DAY?
CAN'T YOU SEE? I'M CLEANING CLEANING!!
HUH?
KSHHH!
OH, AND IF THERE'S ANYTHING THAT NEEDS REPAIRING, PLEASE LET ME KNOW
IT'S MY JOB AS DIRECTOR.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MR. MUKAI..
HUH?
OH MY, LOOK AT YOU. YOUR FOREHEAD'S COVERED WITH SWEAT
MR. MUKAI
OH!
WELL, I AM THE DIRECTOR AFTER ALL.
THANK YOU FOR DOING THAT YOU'RE WORKING SO HARD.
WELL, HE DOES SEEM TO BE ENJOYING HIMSELF I GUESS IT'S ALL RIGHT
HIS JOB AS DIRECTOR? SOUNDS MORE LIKE THE WORK OF A HANDYMAN.
♬
PUNPU

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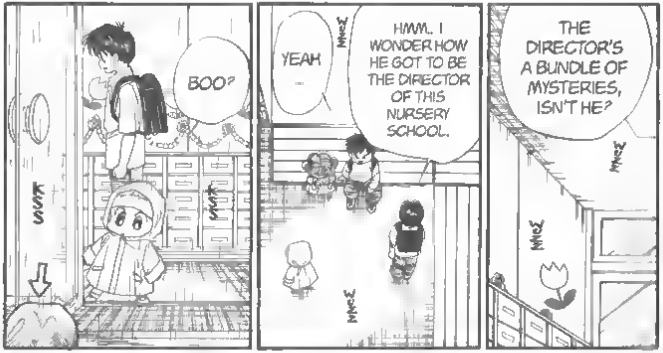
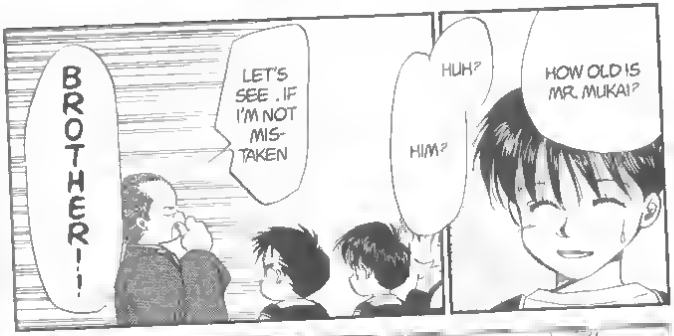
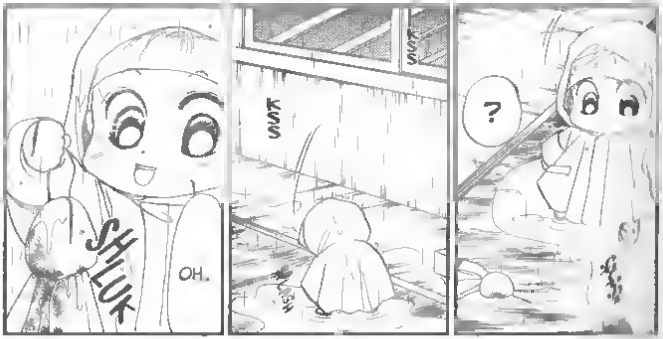
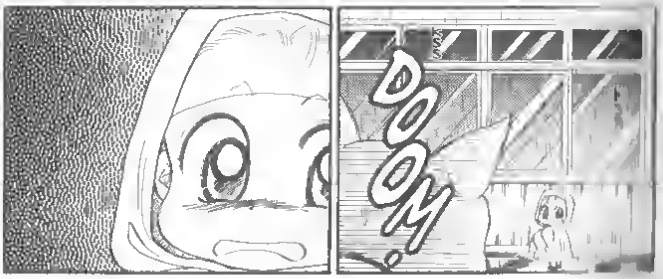






MY BROTHER AND I?
WE JUST HEARD HOW MUCH YOU AND YOUR BROTHER LOOK ALIKE.
I'VE BEEN VERY... BUSY.
YOU LOOK A LITTLE SICKLY.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING.. LOITERING AROUND MY NURSERY SCHOOL?
HEY, YOJI...
THAT'S HOW YOU GREET ME? I CAME TO SEE YOU!



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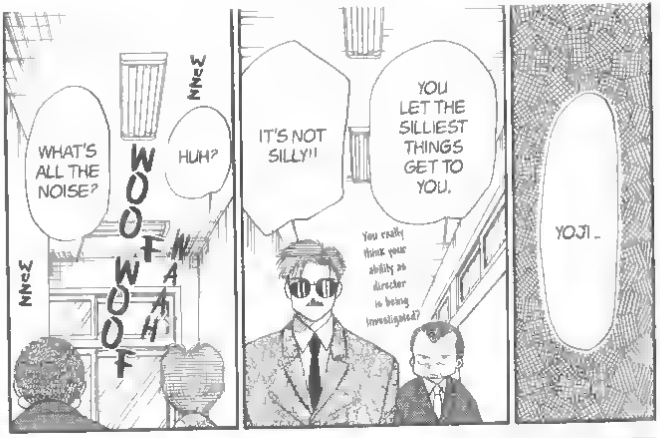

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